

**SB 1266 Opposition Statement**

\$32 billion. That is what our children and grandchildren will pay to settle the debt associated with this bond. All this for funding costly programs at the expense of desperately needed highway construction.

Make no mistake: every Member of the Legislature who voted against this bond measure supports restoring our state's crumbling transportation system. We support dedicating every dollar you pay in gas taxes to our highways. And we support building for California's future wisely. However, this measure fails to achieve these important goals in a fiscally responsible manner.

Improved transportation is a critical issue for our state, but equally important is that each additional borrowed dollar we spend worsens our budget deficit and could cause significant consequences for hard-working California families.

A fiscally responsible solution would be a “pay as you go” approach to funding much-needed transportation projects. This approach will pay for infrastructure improvements from the general fund (taxes you already pay) and allow California to borrow less money to meet its annual obligations.

By setting aside a portion of the budget each year for infrastructure, we will be able to better meet our state's complex needs and not saddle our children and grandchildren with back-breaking debt.

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Of further concern in this measure is the rush to spend our tax dollars. In hastily passing this bond measure, the Legislature failed to include time and cost saving opportunities such as “Design-Build” and environmental permitting reforms that would have streamlined the construction process, completing more projects with the same amount of money. Additionally, within 3 weeks after voter approval of this measure, the California Transportation Commission is required to “develop and adopt guidelines” to fund all outlined transportation programs and spend billions of your hard-earned tax dollars. Then CALTRANS and your regional and county transportation agencies must submit all potential transportation projects to the California Transportation Commission. Just think: A state government agency must put rules in place to spend billions of dollars in just 3 weeks on projects across California without allowing enough time for public oversight and review. Is this the best way to spend your tax dollars?

*Significant fiscal decisions in Government should not be made without adequate time for due diligence and analysis.*

Governor Schwarzenegger is right; California state government has neglected the transportation needs of our State for three decades and something needs to be done. But let’s do this right. Let’s go back to the drawing board and find a responsible way to focus on critically needed projects while at the same time developing a financially accountable plan that includes a “pay as you go” element, without any wasteful spending to pay for these important projects.

We should demand that our children and grandchildren have a transportation system that meets the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. That’s why you need to vote “no” on this bond and force the

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Legislature to produce a transportation infrastructure plan for our future that is responsible, realistic and result driven.

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